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NSC BRIEFING 2 March 1955

THE ANDHRA ELECTIONS

- I. Final information on vote count, which began 1 March, will not be available until next week.
 - A. Preliminary returns show that of the 52 legislative seats so far decided in the 196 seat assembly, the Congress-coalition won 38, the Communists 2, Praja Socialists 4, Independents 8.
 - B. Congress Party contesting 134 seats and its allies 51 more.
- II. Congress Party circles more confident of victory than at outset of campaign.
 - A. Communists, evidently expecting defeat, are already making excuses in Indian Parliament, charging unfair campaign tactics by Congress Party.
- III. A new element in post-election prospects is growing concern over venal nature Congress-coalition candidates.
 - A. Doubt now exists as to how many successful candidates will remain loyal to Congress Party once election funds dry up.
 - B. Possibility that some may join opposition once safely elected.
- IV. Thus, unstable government in prospect for Andhra state even with Congress victory.

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